

## MR. H. J. McDONALD.

A Representative Negro—From the Lone Star State—Successful Grocer—A Political Power in Cuney's State.

When H. J. McDonald was born in Georgia just a few years before the opening of the great Rebellion—though proud as a parent may be of his child; though as hopeful of his future—still his home teachers hardly dreamed then (how could we, when slavery had us bound?) that their bright sunshine then and now as well would ever make such a pronounced success and be such an important factor in the community.

Mr. McDonald was born in Florence, Ga., in 1855; and there resided until 1876, when he with his parents moved over into Alabama. McDonald remained in Alabama and worked very



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hard indeed, striving to accumulate something. Strange as it may seem, we often hear the average orator of the present day chastising us as a race for beginning at the top, after our emancipation, instead of at the bottom of building the superstructure, before we had laid the foundation. But some of the most pleasing examples of the black man striving after something material, is found in the records of characters as our subject, Mr. McDonald. Feeling that he could better his condition in every respect, in 1880 Mr. McDonald with his family—for since his adventure into Alabama, he had taken unto himself a life-long friend, and who has proven herself this—moved into the then paradise of the South, Texas, and settled at Mexia, which place has been his home since, and which has been the scene of struggles and triumphs. Here Mr. McDonald has established himself a record for all times, and of which his posterity will be justly proud. In the fall of 1887, Mr. McDonald opened a grocery; misfortune has been his as well as success; dark days have hung over him just as the days of sunshine have abided. Only those of apathy came first, and the harvest, rich as it is, is now being reaped.

Mr. McDonald's place has no signs of the colored man in his place of business; no greasy counters or cobwebbed walls; no great crowds of loafers hanging around, driving away trade and respect, but rather on the other hand, everything is clean and neat. The McDonald store is located in the central part of his little city, on Commerce st. which is the center for traffic and commerce. He keeps a stock of goods which will compare favorably with any around. Customers are never compelled to chase from store to store in search of an article if they ever once try McDonald, for, as the motto goes there: "If it is in town McDonald has it."

He has a great host of customers of both races. He numbers among his customers people of all conditions—leaders and laborers; and Mr. McDonald has and holds the confidence of each one. He keeps at the same stand and improves as time flits by. Today like yesterday Mr. McDonald puts quality first. Right here has been the secret of his success. Today he keeps the best in the market. No "second hand" or cast off at all. His store is a commissary for all things good and delicious.

Mr. McDonald personally stands high in his vicinity. His word is as reliable as the City National Bank of his town. No one ever doubts his sincerity for a moment. His character is the man. He has not builded unwisely at all. Deeper than this successful career is the underlying principle—honesty of purpose, and then as Tom Reed says, "the right action."

Mr. McDonald is indeed a local power in the G. O. P., ranks. He is honest there as elsewhere. He prefers his private affairs to public office. This is the only reason he has not been the recipient of some respectable public office. A white paper published in Mexia in a recent edition paid this tribute to Mr. McDonald:

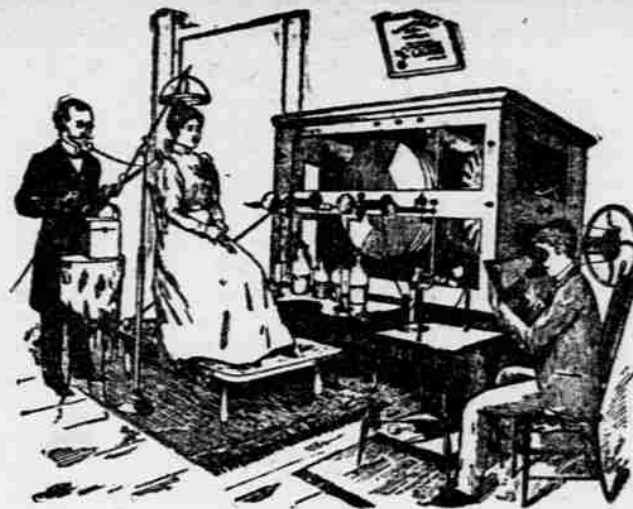
"H. J. McDonald, a colored citizen of Mexia, conducts a successful grocery business on Commerce street. He is one of the few colored men in the state commanding the respect and having the confidence of the white population. He is very intelligent and is strictly reliable in all his dealings. Mr. McDonald is one of the leading politicians in the ranks of the republicans."

Such is the career of H. J. McDonald. No wavering, believing first in right; no deceit, working for the uplift of his people, he is indeed a splendid example of an ideal Negro who must throw off our burden and make this race of ours, "free indeed and in truth."

## BOOK REVIEWS.

Editor C. H. Phillips of the Christian Index, tried himself on his century edition. It is indeed a credit to the church and to the race. We congratulate Brother Phillips upon the successful issuance of the largest illustrated Negro paper of the century.

Howard's Magazine for October is full of interesting matter. The publisher should feel satisfied as to its merits. Prof. Kelly Miller, of Washington has a very logical article on "The Effect of Imperialism Upon the Negro Race." Prof. Miller is quite able to discuss such a subject. He advises the Negro above all things to adhere to the great Declaration of Independence regardless of party, since as Prof. Miller so aptly says: "There has been a strange transposition of parties on this question. The doctrine of Abraham Lincoln has been espoused by the party of Stephen A. Douglas, while the professed followers of the great Emancipator are practicing the doctrine of political subjugation and inequality." Phil H. Brown has a very beautiful poem taken from life called "Ma'ohin Wid De Ban." The Hon. Fred. L. McGhee the colored leader of Minneapolis bar, tells why we should not as a race, support the present administration. The article is indeed an interesting one, full of wholesome thought. The rapid fire gun invented by the colored inventor Mr. Eugene Burkins is treated by one Mr. W. G. Alexander. It furnishes interesting reading matter, as well as the facts of the invention, which has attracted so much attention. A poem on the "Return of John Brown" by Ada E. Ferris is an excitable poem from imagination. Withal the Howard will compare with our best magazines of today and will probably hold its own.



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